



AL2933 - The 1981 Detainees Oral History Project

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Abstract: The South African History Archive (SAHA) and Historical Papers were approached by thirty seven people, who were imprisoned on 22 September 1981 and detained for anything from fourteen days to just under one year, to document and preserve their stories. The interviewees are: Cedric de Beer, Hannchen Koornhof, Maurice Smithers, Prema Naidoo, Norman Manoim, Caroline Cullinan, Emma Mashinini, Merle Favis, Pravin Gordhan, Audrey Coleman, Gavin Anderson, Barbara Klugman, Cedric Maysom, Kathy Satchwell, Alan Fine, Monty Narsoo and Joanne Yawitch. A number of the detainees (Rob Adam, Barbara Hogan, Alan Fine, Hannchen Koornhof, Prema Naidoo and Shireesh Nanabhai) went on trial and, in the case of Hogan and Adam, were jailed until the release of political prisoners in 1990. Neil Aggett died while in detention. Whilst other people were detained during this period, the detainees listed here were picked for their links to one another.

Introduction

The South African History Archive (SAHA) and Historical Papers at University of Witwatersrand were approached by thirty seven people, who were imprisoned on 22 September 1981 and detained for anything from fourteen days to just under one year, to document and preserve their stories. A number of the detainees: Rob Adam, Barbara Hogan, Alan Fine, Hannchen Koornhof, Prema Naidoo and Shireesh Nanabhai went on trial and, in the case of Hogan and Adam, were jailed until the release of political prisoners in 1990. Neil Aggett died while in detention. Whilst other people were detained during this period, the detainees listed here were picked for their links to one another.

These oral testimonies provide an entry point into the incubation period of the mass democratic struggle that grew with the formation of the United Democratic Front (UDF) in 1983. They show how activists worked across racial divisions and how their efforts cut across sectors and categories of struggle.

Inventory

A1: Audio Recordings

- A1.1: Cedric De Beer
- A1.2: Hannchen Koornhof
- A1.3: Morice Smithers
- A1.4: Prema Naidoo
- A1.5: Norman Maniom
- A1.6: Caroline Cullinan
- A1.7: Emma Mashinini



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- A1.8: Merle Favis
- A1.9: Pravin Gordhan
- A1.10: Audrey Coleman
- A1.11: Gavin Anderson
- A1.12: Barbara Klugman
- A1.13: Cedrick Mayson
- A1.14: Kathy Satchwell
- A1.15: Alan Fine
- A1.16: Monty Narsoo
- A1.17: Joanne Yawitch
- A2.18: Barbara Hogan
- A2.19: Colin Purkey
- A2.20: Rob Adams

A2: Transcripts of interviews

- A2.1: Transcript of the interview with Cedric de Beer
- A2.2: Transcript of the interview with Hannchen Koornhof
- A2.3: Transcript of the interview with Morice Smithers
- A2.4: Transcript of the interview with Prema Naidoo
- A2.5: Transcript of the interview with Norman Manoim
- A2.6: Transcript of the interview with Caroline Cullinan
- A2.7: Transcript of the interview with Emma Mashinini
- A2.8: Transcript of the interview with Merle Favis
- A2.9: Transcript of the interview with Pravin Gordhan
- A2.10: Transcript of the interview with Audrey Coleman
- A2.11: Transcript of the interview with Gavin Anderson
- A2.12: Transcript of the interview with Barbara Klugman
- A2.13: Transcript of the interview with Cedric and Penelope Mayson
- A2.14: Transcript of the interview with Kathy Satchwell
- A2.15: Transcript of the interview with Alan Fine
- A2.16: Transcript of the interview with Monty Narsoo
- A2.17: Transcript of the interview with Joanne Yawitch
- A2.18: Transcript of the interview with Barbara Hogan
- A2.19: Transcript of the interview with Colin Purkey
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